



The UNabridged

THE CONCORDIA STUDENT UNION NEWSLETTER

Performance Contracts



**Will the Quebec government
raise your tuition?
Not if you don't let them!**

Check out page 3 for information about how to get involved.

February • 2002

Time for a New Beginning

By Patrice Blais, President

Things do not seem to quiet down around the CSU. First, I want to reassure all CSU members that despite the university's decision to freeze the transfer of student fees (a situation which will be quickly rectified), all services for all student union members will be maintained. Clubs do not have to worry about their budget and everyone expecting to receive funding will receive it.

The Rector has shown an impressive lack of judgement.

The Rector has shown an impressive lack of judgement. He has exacerbated election aftermath problems which, ironically were well on

their way to being solved. This leaves the student union in quite an unusual situation. Without an executive, the most important focus will be that services continue to be offered and that students get the services they are entitled to. Along with other concerned Councillors, I will be helping to rebuild our electoral structure for the general elections in March.

Next month students will vote for a new beginning, a whole new executive and a whole new student Council. We must not be discouraged by what happened but must persevere in improving our Union. We all learned a lot from the by-elections of November 2001 and one of the most important lessons is that in order to function, democracy needs the input and efforts of everybody involved in the process.

We cannot take democracy for granted. In the last 3 years that I have been involved in the CSU, I have learned that success comes with perseverance, dedication and effort. Put your name on the ballot, become the new executive, become the next student Council and let's move forward once and for all to achieve our primary goal, building and strengthening the student and university community.

CSU Annual Elections



Polling takes place on

March
26th, 27th, and 28th
2002

Get more information on how to run a slate, have a campaign committee, or anything else about the elections by contacting the CSU.

CSU Questionnaire Update

by Sameer Zuberi CSU Internal Worker

My own awareness of CSU services has been a gradual and ongoing process throughout my three years at Concordia. This is a common trend for the majority of students attending the University, who never really know what services the CSU has to offer until they are well into completing their degrees. As a result, the full benefit of services provided by the Union does not always reach its members. In an effort to counter this tendency a considerable amount of time was spent in generating methods and projects to increase the profile and exposure of CSU services.

The first project consisted of measuring the general awareness of CSU services through feedback acquired by a questionnaire. Random responses were solicited from students in all four faculties and on the Loyola and the Sir George Williams campuses. Surveys were also distributed inside many of last month's Unabridged, in the lobby of the Hall building, and at the CSU's offices. Approximately 700 students took the time to answer the survey. As expected, the responses showed varying degrees of awareness of the services offered by the CSU. Some students hailed the existing services and wanted to see more created of a similar nature. However, in other instances students commented that they knew very little of what the union has to offer and in extreme cases nothing at all.

Constructive feedback from the survey called for more information about services and, although conceived at the same time as the first project, the second project is intended to do just that. This second project is an extensive poster campaign started a few weeks ago and aimed at advertising the union's services. It briefly outlines what services the union has to offer and can be seen on the poster boards scattered throughout the Hall building. Unfortunately, as most students stroll through the halls they filter out many posters; this has prompted the development of services pamphlets that will soon be available on the sixth floor in the CSU offices.

A detailed analysis of the multiple-choice survey is now in progress. The results will be analyzed to increase the exposure of lesser-known services. Also, a second survey is being developed to pickup where the first one left off. Hopefully this one will reach even more students than the previous one. It is hoped that combined these efforts will curb the trend of students learning about CSU services only at the end of their university careers. Only through feedback though can the CSU actually accomplish this task. If you feel that you have ideas pertaining to services, please take the time to e-mail the CSU (be sure to mention Services in your subject line) at csu@csu.tao.ca. All input is greatly appreciated.

The results of the questionnaire will be soon available at the CSU website (www.csu.tao.ca) and in the next edition of the *Unabridged*.



Questionnaire

The CSU thanks you for your time in answering this questionnaire. Your responses will be collected and analyzed to make your student union better able to serve you.

Please indicate your answers by circling the correct response.

Which faculty are you in?

- a. Arts & Science.
- b. John Molson School of Business.
- c. Engineering and Computer Science.
- d. Fine Arts.
- e. Independent Student.

How many years have you been in Concordia?

- a. Under 1 year.
- b. From 1 to 2.
- c. From 2 to 3.
- d. From 3 to 4.
- e. Over 4 years.

Are you a full-time student or a part-time student?

- a. I am a full time student taking at least 12 credits.
- b. I am a part-time student taking under 12 credits.

How old are you?



Michael Golden a.k.a. **The "Golden Censor"**

By Ralph Lee, CSU Advocacy Worker

The poster policy at Concordia must be revamped and changed. At the time of this writing a young man by the name of Michael Golden a.k.a. the "Golden censor" has complete authority in deciding what posters are deemed politically appropriate to grace the halls of this fine institution.

Michael Golden has recently been the center of controversy regarding his decisions about what can and what cannot be posted. It seems that this man has become overwhelmed with his new found power and has decided to use it to ensure that he satisfies the administration's pro-censorship policy regarding posting. Mr Golden's disdain for posters is quite apparent as he has enforced a zero-tolerance policy on any posters by having his colleague "Igor" vigilantly patrol the halls and remove anything that he has not personally approved. Students are unable to promote events or use the walls to raise awareness for any cause unless the "Golden censor" says it's O.K.

Elections are shortly arriving and to ensure that a competent and unbiased Chief Electoral Officer is appointed, the union has decided to poster for the position well in advance to allow for as many candidates as possible. Unfortunately these posters were ordered

ripped off the walls by the "Golden censor," only to be approved a day later after realizing his mistake.

I guess you can't blame a man for being blinded by his censorship powers. Mr. Golden once again targeted the union when he decided to ban a poster that was promoting a union event to raise support and awareness about the provincial government's position regarding the raising of tuition. When asked his reason for banning such a relevant poster his answer was that the poster did not address all students. In response the union had to explain to the "Golden censor" that accessible education WAS for ALL students.

Mr. Golden (once again blinded by his power) reversed his decision and allowed the poster to adorn his sacred golden walls. The important point to these ridiculous scenarios is not the incompetent job that Michael Golden is doing but rather the need for a poster policy that is clear and satisfactory for all students. The union over the next few months will actively work to set up a new poster policy with the administration so that students are not forced to rely on the judgment call of a single graduate student who works in the Dean of Students Office.



FINE ARTS STUDENT ALLIANCE (FASA)

Student-run Art Festival

from March 1st to the 15th



So you need to contact the CSU?

**Concordia Student Union
1455 de Maisonneuve Ouest
Suite H-637,
Montreal, PQ H3G 1M8**

**Telephone: 514.848.7474
Fax: 514.848.7450
Email: csu@csu.tao.ca**

The top five questions about the **CSU Health & Dental Plan**

By Jen Mosher, Executive Administrative Assistant

1. How do I use the insurance?

When you incur an expense that is covered by the CSU Health & Dental Plan, you'll need to make a claim to the insurance company to obtain your reimbursement. Claim forms are available at the CSU office, Health Services and can be downloaded from the ASEQ (Alliance Pour la santé des étudiants au Québec/ Quebec Student Health Alliance) website (www.aseq.com).

Fill out the form and attach your original receipt. It's a good idea to make a photocopy of your receipts for your records. Completed forms and receipts should be mailed to Sun Life of Canada:

Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada
Group Claims Department
Box 6076, Station CV
Montréal, Québec H3C 4S3

2. What am I covered for?

You're covered for a lot of important medical services which fall outside of your provincial medical coverage. This long list includes prescription drugs; eye exams and corrective lenses; vaccinations; hospitalization; medical equipment; ambulances; travel health coverage; tutorial benefits; dental care; chiropractors; naturopaths; speech therapists; athletic therapists; etc.

For more details on your coverage, visit the CSU office to pick up a copy of the Reference Guide booklet, or visit the ASEQ website at www.aseq.com.

3. Does the insurance cover my dentist, even if she isn't listed on the dental network?

The CSU Dental plan provides coverage for any dentist you choose. Dentists who are listed with the Dental Network will simply give you additional savings.

Your dental plan insurance covers 50% of the cost of preventative services (i.e. cleanings, check ups, etc.). Network dentists will give you an additional 30% reduction off the standard Dental Association price for preventative services. This means, you will have 80% of your costs covered by the CSU Dental Plan if you use the Dental Network.

Basic services, such as fillings and oral surgery have 50% insurance coverage as well. Network dentists will give you a 20% reduction off the standard Dental Association costs for these services. By using the Dental Network you can have 70% of your costs covered.

Restorative work (bridges, crowns) is not covered by the insurance portion of your Dental Plan. However, dentists on the Dental Network will give you a 20% reduction off the standard Dental Association costs of these services.

4. Why am I billed more for the winter semester than for the fall semester?

You're billed two times throughout the year for your insurance coverage for the policy year (September 1st to August 31st). On your statement of account for your Fall fees, you will be billed \$51 for the Health and Dental Plan. This payment covers the policy year from September 1st to December 31st.

On your Winter statement of account, you will be billed \$102. This covers the remainder of your policy year, from January 1st to August 31st. The amount is higher because you are paying for a longer coverage period than in the first semester.

5. Where can I get more information about my Health and Dental Plan?

You can get more information of the CSU Health and Dental Plan by:

- Calling ASEQ at 844-4423
- Visiting the ASEQ office at 2045 Stanley St., Suite 200
- Visiting the ASEQ website at www.aseq.com
- Calling the CSU Office at 848-7474
- Visiting the CSU Office in H-637



On FEBRUARY 21ST join students from across Quebec in telling the provincial government that

AFFORDABLE QUALITY EDUCATION IS A PRIORITY

By Aimee van Drimmelen, Canadian Federation of Students - Quebec

Over twenty-five years ago the Federal government of Canada signed the UN covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural rights, which states that education should be free and accessible as a basic right for everyone. This is obviously surprising when we see trends today moving so blatantly in the opposite direction. Government funding for education is decreasing, our loans and bursary system is appalling, and we are constantly threatened with tuition increases. There is a growing reliance on private interests to make up for the very areas where the government is failing financially.

Many see Canada's education system as favourable when compared to that of the U.S., but how long will we be able to make this argument. Quebec now spends \$2,682 less than the U.S. spends on average per student. In fact, Canada now spends 30% less on universities than it spent 20 years ago, while the U.S. spends 20% more than it did 20 years ago! Since 1994, the Parti-Québécois cut over \$2 billion from education spending, and although a partial restoration of funding was agreed to after large-scale student protests, the Government has made it a yearly event to threaten the promised new funding.

The P.Q. government has also implemented a system of performance contracts to pressure universities to measure up to specific goals in order to receive public funding, for example, demanding an 80% graduation success rate. Unfortunately, the many factors that may lead to students receiving lower grades, or failing, such as working full time or having children, are not taken into consideration with these contracts. Such a high criteria along with little money means that instead of being helped, these students are quickly pushed aside to avoid muddying the university's performance. Some other goals for universities in Quebec are: centralization, merging, and privatizing of services between different universities (for example one corporation providing food for all campuses, such as Sodhexo Marriott); and an increased investment in technological services, such as long distance



(internet) courses. The CFS-Q feels that if the objective of these contracts is really to benefit the institution as a whole, and students in particular, there are far more important areas where performance can be judged, such as the loans and bursaries system - an area where many students consistently play an excruciatingly frustrating waiting game, are given conflicting information, and suffer for months without money they should not even need in order to receive post-secondary educations.

There are over 15 industrialized nations who realize free accessible post-secondary education is important, and many of these countries are less affluent than Canada. It is time that our governments, both provincial and federal, start making education a priority again. If billions can be found for national security, then surely there is money available for an area as essential as public education.

On February 21st, students from Universities and CEGEPS all over the province of Quebec will mobilize and head to Quebec City to visit the education minister to remind him that accessible education is not something he can sacrifice.

Get the message out SAY NO TO TUITION HIKES

Don't be silent any longer!

Get on the FREE BUSES to Quebec City

call the Canadian Federation of Students - Quebec at 931-2377, or look for sign up sheets in the CSU office or around campus.





Judicial Board's Report

Null and Void

By Sabrina Stea, Fine Arts Councillor

So Jonathan LaBerge has decided that because Council has not appointed the Representative Union (RU) as an interim executive, until the next elections, that it has been "hijacked by irresponsible delinquents" and that the CSU is an "oppressive institution". We can all agree that the November 2001 by-elections were filled with irregularities and thus rightfully deemed 'null and void', as the Judicial Board (JB) ruled on January 20th, 2002. But the point of contention is why were they deemed null and void? LaBerge would probably argue that it's Council and "the CSU abusing its power," but the accumulation of the various complaints are enough to make anyone doubt the validity of the elections and the results that ensued.

As a Fine Arts Councillor, on January 23rd, 2002 (or Black Wednesday as Jonathan LaBerge so racistly announces in the Link) I, along with the rest of the Council, had the 'responsibility' of deciding who would be the next CSU executive. One of the motions on the table at that meeting was a motion to appoint Christopher Schulz and the RU to the executive until the next elections. The vote was 14 against, 6 in favour, 2 abstentions. I was one of the Councillors who abstained. Although I don't usually abstain from making a decision as a Councillor, the JB's report and the Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) report left me with no other option. I abstained not necessarily because the JB ruled that the elections are 'null and void', but because the course of events makes me doubt whether in fact it was my 'responsibility' to appoint the RU.

The JB made 10 rulings regarding the November 2001 by-elections. A breakdown of the decisions would better explain how ambiguous the situation is and how doubtful the RU's 'victory' is.

Some of the complaints the JB had to rule on were regarding the re-voting process. The process broke regulations and by-laws for two main reasons: because it took place during days that were not regular class days and because the action of casting a ballot twice for the same election is against standard election practices. These two decisions were the basis on which the JB declared the elections null and void. In their report, the JB accuse the CEO of "mismanaging" the elections and "compromising" the electoral process and state that she should never hold this position again. Granted the re-voting was a mistake and a big fiasco in the end, and the CEO should have consulted the RU before disqualifying them, but this does not justify scapegoating the CEO. The JB made mistakes of their own and should have taken a closer look at the CEO's report before submitting theirs, they would have noticed that they made virtually the same rulings. In fact, the CEO conducted a more thorough investigation!

Two other complaints deal with procedures. The first is about the checks and balances of the voting process and the second with public notice. According to the Judicial Board poor measures were taken to prevent students from voting twice. It is unclear how many students might have voted twice and if it is substantial enough to affect the final results. Furthermore, notice must be given 10 days in advance which it was not.

A complaint was made regarding Schulz's failure to submit any and all expenses relating to RU's legal fees. The JB decided that because these expenses were made before the by-election process began, they do not constitute an election expense and therefore need not be declared. This ruling is arguable since it was the same lawyer who wrote the CEO a letter demanding that the RU be placed back on the ballot. It was this letter that caused the CEO to revoke her decision. Furthermore, revealing these legal fees might have revealed that the RU was campaigning before the campaigning period began and the links RU has with the Concordia Administration. This ruling raises more questions than it actually claims to resolve.

A complaint which was completely brushed off by the Judicial Board concerned the University's PR and/or Advancement departments providing resources for the RU party. During the polling period, the Alumni magazine featured members of the RU on their cover, along with an article. Every slate and candidate has a maximum amount of money they are allowed to spend on campaigning and for the University to provide space in their magazine for a particular party constitutes a violation of election regulations and by-laws. They not only backed a specific party but also provided them with resources that were not available to all. The JB claims that the PR's website states that their services are available to all students, but in their investigation they never contacted the PR department to inquire about the procedure and if it in fact is available to all. The Judicial Board also claims that it was not the RU that asked for the services, but an individual (Chris Schulz). Either way the party fully benefited from the publicity. Furthermore, Schulz never disclosed his meetings with the administration regarding the publication of the article or the press releases that were sent out.

The ruling concerning the overnight passes is probably one of the most contentious one. This ruling neglects to deal with the various layers of accessing an overnight pass. The University is technically off limits between 11:00pm and 8:00am unless

Continued on facing page -

The Moderate Majority

By Christopher Adam & Catherine Letendre
(Arts & Science Councillors)

Last semester Chris Schulz submitted a petition signed by thousands of students who demanded change in their union. For the first time students participated en masse in the CSU elections in November 2001, and as a consequence elected the moderate and centrist Representative Union into power. Yet, after nearly 3 months, the Chris Schulz led RU has not taken office and the CSU is currently administered by a sort of care-taker, interim government.

As Arts and Science councillors we were and are in favor of appointing the RU as the interim executive until the upcoming general elections in March. At the January 23, 2002 council meeting, however, only six councillors voted in favor of Chris Schulz's RU. Though we realize that the elections were faulty and even chaotic at times, we believe that it is reasonable to assume that under more appropriate circumstances the RU would have also garnered the most votes among all the other parties. It is likely that the false allegations of bribery coupled with the fact that the RU was removed from the ballots for hours during the first day of voting, and was only reinstated upon seeking legal recourse actually placed Chris Schulz at a distinct disadvantage in relation to the Umbrella Party. Should there have been no disqualified ballots and should the election have passed without hitches, the Umbrella Party would still have lost the election to the Chris Schulz slate, and the New Organized Way would have still had not even the remotest chance of winning the elections.

If anything, the November election provides the evidence to a simple formula: the greater number of students participate in the voting, the greater the chance that a moderate and centrist executive can take power. No one need subscribe to the illusion that the majority of undergraduate students at Concordia adhere to radicalism, anarchy, communism or any combination of these beliefs. The majority is always moderate, and prefers caution in politics. Extremism, regardless of what side of the political spectrum it may be found, is rejected by and large by students at Concordia. Those students that hold firm to the notion that dissent in politics must be tolerated, that intelligent and conciliatory discussion and negotiation with university bodies, the administration included, is often preferable to pressure tactics, do not constitute a threatening phenomenon from what the leftist radicals perceive as 'right-wing.' These are the students who have a different vision for the CSU and see a desperate need for renewal.

Many of the moderates who voted for the RU may well feel disenchanted with student politics at Concordia. Perhaps now they will ignore the CSU all together and focus their attentions elsewhere. The most constructive solution, however, would be if Concordia students once again turn out in large numbers at the upcoming elections, and again speak their mind clearly in both words and numbers.

Why "Councillors Comments?"

At the CSU Council meeting on January 30th a motion was passed asking that a section of the *UNabridged Newsletter* be reserved for Councillors to express their views on the elections, the Judicial Boards report, and other recent events .



Councillors' Comments

UNIVERSITY'S CUTTING OFF OF STUDENT UNION'S FUNDS:

Illegal Interference

By Aaron Maté, Arts and Science Councillor

In response to a student decision that it did not agree with, Concordia's administration has taken an illegal and seriously damaging measure against the Concordia Student Union (CSU). On Friday January 25, the Rector's Cabinet announced that it was severing all ties with the Union and cutting off the transfer of all monies collected on its behalf. The University's act, aside from completely violating Quebec provincial law on accreditation, was intended to seriously affect the Union's abilities to serve the student body and carry out its day to day affairs.

The University has taken its decision in response to what it deems as an "abuse of power" by the CSU Council, an elected group of thirty student representatives that serves as the union's board of governors and its highest decision-making body. Last week, the council voted against installing Chris Schulz and his executive slate, the Representative Union (RU), the party that received the most votes in the December 2001 general elections, into office.

Although the RU received the most votes, the CSU Judicial Board later annulled the elections on the grounds that the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in charge of the voting process had erred in a decision that had momentarily eliminated the RU from the ballot. The CEO disqualified the RU on charges of bribery, a decision that was later reversed. The re-instatement of the RU meant the elimination of the over five hundred ballots that were cast while they were off the ballot, of whom only two hundred returned to vote again. As the election was won by 264 votes, there was a technical chance that the runner-up slate could have in fact been victorious.

Council's decision was not unanimous, and was a matter of vigorous debate at the meeting. Councillors in favour of installing Schulz, myself included, argued that the elections were not nullified on the grounds of the allegations against him (which aside from attempting to bribe an opponent, also included illegal campaigning and having received favouritism from the school's administration), but on the grounds of the CEO's error in judgement. As a result, it was argued that Schulz, no matter the moral judgements that could be made about his slate's conduct, should not be punished for a mistake that wasn't his.

Yet a majority of councillors were unwilling to legitimize an election that had been effectively thrown out. As such, a decision was taken to appoint an interim executive, with a planned follow-up meeting set Wednesday, January 30th. Following the meeting, several councillors were engaged in talks with Schulz and other councillors to attempt to reach an agreement. Any chances at a compromise have been seriously threatened by the University's ensuing reaction.

Null and Void Continued from facing page -

you have an overnight pass. To get an overnight pass you can either get it from the CSU or the University administration. Since the CSU does not provide resources for campaigning, the RU received one from the Dean of Students' Office. However, the Umbrella Party asked the Dean of Students himself how they could access an overnight pass but were denied. The JB found the RU not guilty because they never used their passes - since the CEO took it away. The JB deemed the CEO's actions as inappropriate. The fact is that according to the evidence the RU did enjoy an extra perk (from the administration no less) that the other parties did not. Interestingly, the CEO also ruled in RU's favor but against the Dean of Students' Office for selectively issuing overnight passes.

Then there is the bribery complaint. Nili Yavin, VP-Communications for the RU, was accused of bribery. (Maybe somebody should tell her that bribery is not the best way of communicating with students). Luis Diaz,

Aside from the practical effects, the University's decision magnifies a problem that unfortunately is nothing new, that of illegal and immoral meddling in student union affairs.

This is the same administration that expelled and banned student activists Tom Keefer and Laith Marouf over an alleged confrontation with security guards, a decision reached after refusing to grant the students the right to a hearing process as mandated by the school's own regulations, nor by consulting eleven student witnesses to the incident in question, who came forward to offer their testimony but were rebuked.

This administration also actively opposed the CSU's accreditation drive last year, in which a turn-out of over 10 000 students overwhelmingly voted to make their union an autonomous student association under which the provincial laws currently being broken now stridently apply.

As a student union that has long received negative press (some warranted, most hateful and reactionary, in my view), it is likely that support for the union for the university's illegal act will come from mainstream sources. The recent elections won by Schulz, for example, were hailed by National Post editors as a victory against the "Marxist-Arabist cabal that formerly controlled the school's union," thereby putting an end to "a disgraceful period in Concordia student politics." (December 10, 2001)

Unfortunately, the disgraceful period continues today, and, as in previous instances, the university administration has played a leading role in it. Under Quebec accreditation law, a university has no right to withhold student monies simply because it does not agree with a decision taken by its elected representatives.

Like anybody else, it certainly has the right to express its disapproval, but to break the law and put the livelihood of

the union at risk is a direct affront on the tens of thousands of students that it works hard to represent and provide services to. If anything, it will only serve to inflame the tensions between the school's administration and the student union, who in the past three years have been at odds with our active and effective involvement in fighting added "ancillary" fees to students' tuition costs, raising awareness of important political issues, and oppose the privatization of the university.

Whether or not you agree with our previous stances on political issues, or with our decision concerning the elections, we hope you'll agree that the university has no right to break provincial law simply because it did not.

Please write Concordia Rector Frederick Lowy at lowyfh@vax2.concordia.ca, and tell him how you feel about the situation. Make sure you carbon copy (cc:) a copy to the CSU at csu@csu.tao.ca. And while you're at it, if you wish to remind the rector about the importance of the due process which has thus far been denied Tom Keefer and Laith Marouf, please go ahead. And if you wish to let us know your comments and concerns over the current state of affairs, please e-mail us at the above address.

As should be evident, our only means of support must come from like-minded individuals - such as (hopefully) yourself - who believe in the principles of legitimate dissidence and the independence of student associations.

While we recognize that we too have to be mindful of our own actions, and certainly are not without blame in this year of ongoing confrontation and turmoil at our school, we are also entitled to the right to handle our own affairs, whether or not our school administration agrees with the way we do so.



President of the New Organised Way (NOW), recorded a phone conversation between himself and Nili during which she promised him a "form of sponsorship", i.e. a position at the CSU. But Nili would never actually say that she was offering a position because to quote her, "that's like against the thing. You know what I mean? That would be an incriminating statement." The Judicial Board did not find her guilty despite the recording at their disposal (which they ruled as inadmissible) because NOW revoked their complaint. The JB was not proactive in their ruling considering this was a bribery charge and that it was revoked after the by-election results came in and the RU came in first.

The next complaint is against Sharon Koifman of the RU who was caught standing next to a polling booth telling people how to vote. The Judicial Board found him guilty and fined him \$20. He is thus disqualified from being an executive - if the RU was to take office.

The last complaint is against the student group Hillel. The group sent out a letter through the mail to all of their members suggesting to them how to vote, i.e. for the RU. This specifically addresses the issue of each slate having a limit they can spend and to download an expense to another group is a violation. The JB found them not guilty because the party was not aware of their action, however it is Hillel that is guilty of illegal campaigning. The complaint was against the group and therefore the ruling should be based on the group's action and not the RU's knowledge of their action. The JB's report does however suggest that any student group wishing to make an election expense on behalf of a party must notify them first.

For the full report or the CEO's report, you can stop by the CSU and pick one up.



anti-war conference

By Trish McIntosh, Committee Volunteer

In the November 2001 by-elections, Concordia students overwhelmingly supported a motion calling for their union to take active steps in organizing against the war. Under the direction of its members, the Student Union has begun work on a national Anti-War Conference to be held at Concordia University.

Initially, the conference was to be held from March 7-10, 2002. However, in an almost unanimous decision by the Conference Organizing Committee, made up of volunteers from Concordia and the community at large, the conference date has been changed to May 9-12, 2002.

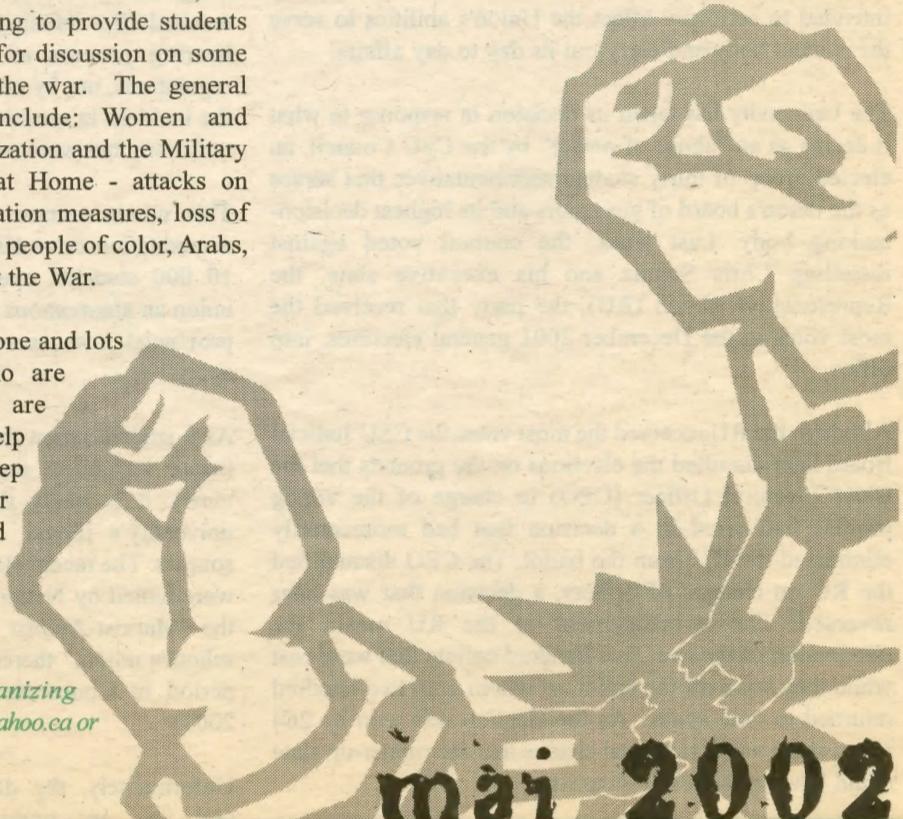
In the meantime we are seeing an escalation of violence against the peoples of Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Palestine, and the Philippines, among other developing nations. The war is also taking shape on the home front as civil rights are rapidly being eroded under draconian "anti-terror laws" and systemic attacks against people of colour, Arabs, and Muslims are intensified. Furthermore, the right to critique policies of war, racism, and corporate globalization are being criminalized.

Now, more than ever, there is a need to critically analyze and debate the true causes of war and to develop an effective plan of action to bring an end to this latest attack

on people across the world. With this in mind, the conference organizers are working to provide students and organizations with a forum for discussion on some of the key issues surrounding the war. The general themes of the conference include: Women and Militarism; Imperialism, Globalization and the Military Industrial Complex; The War at Home - attacks on indigenous nations, anti-immigration measures, loss of civil liberties, and attacks against people of color, Arabs, and Muslims; Organizing against the War.

There is still much work to be done and lots of opportunities for those who are opposed to war and who are interested in volunteering to help make this conference happen. Keep your eyes peeled for volunteer call-out posters or get involved now!

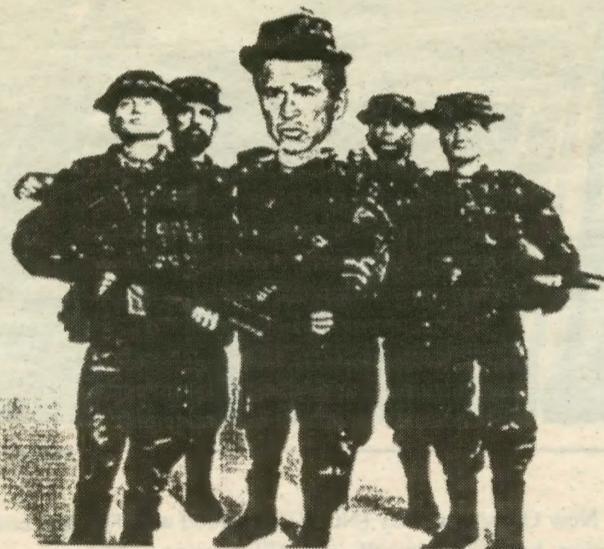
You can contact the Organizing Committee at antiwar_antiguerre@yahoo.ca or call Tricia or Matt at 848-7970.



Activist Art Week

Whether you're an art student who is trying to infuse your work with a message of struggle and social change, or an activist tired of demos and academia looking for some fresh inspiration, or somewhere in between...keep reading.

Activist Art Week is a series of events on and off campus at the end of February. We wanna demystify art. Art is not pretty - it is a venue for social criticism and inspiration and encouragement for revolutionary change. It's a way we can tell our stories, vent our frustration, and describe our ideas - a form of communication. And most of all, it is not exclusive. From performance to patches, paintings to pins... Activist Art Week will provide people with the tools through which they can combine their creative energy and their political beliefs, and discuss the possibilities and realities of using art as a critical (political) tool.



Activist Art Week is also about self-sufficiency, DIY (Do-It-Yourself) philosophies, taking small steps away from the capitalist consumer machine and putting the power to create back into our own hands. It is an opportunity for students and community members to share their skills, ideas, techniques.

There will be casual workshops where you can learn to make your own re-usable pads, patches, pins, and stamps. Or come by and participate in making silk-screen posters. You can learn sprouting or learn how to fix your own bike. There will be computer tech workshops for women, and political art projects on display all week.

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SCHEDULE

(February 25th-March 3rd, 2002)

At the VAV Gallery:
Exhibit on American Imperialism and
Militarism in the 21st century
February 25th - March 1st
Panel discussion
February 27th

On the Mezzanine:
Activist art fair
February 26th - February 28th
Video screenings - Feb. 26th
Workshops - Feb. 27th
(computer, food, bike repair, pad making)
Do It Yourself Propaganda - Feb. 28th
(patches, stickers, pins, posters)

In Reggie's Student Lounge:
Performance (with an open mic)
February 28th, 9:00pm

At Elle Corazon (176 Bertrand E.):
Workshops on art and activism
March 2nd - 3rd



-Coop Bookstore- Used Book Sale

By Cybel Chagnon, Coop Coordinator

Thanks to all students who lent us their textbooks and who bought their textbooks and school supplies from us. Thanks to those who encourage the used book sale; you helped the Coop Bookstore project grow and be realized. The Coop Used Book Sale, which took place in the basement of Reggie's and ended on Feb. 1st, worked out pretty well.

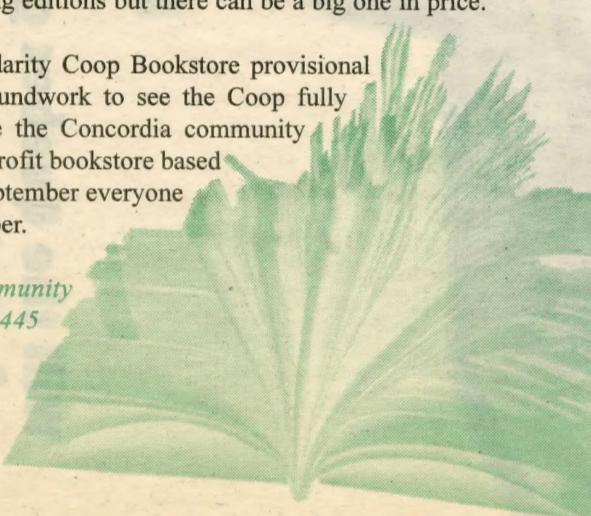
For those students who haven't picked up their unsold books or money, you can contact Cybel at the 848-7445 before February 15th. Students who have a book reimbursement exceeding 100\$ will likely be paid by check.

This semester we received more than 600 books and sold about 40% of them. For the books which were not sold there were a few common reasons: The price set by students for their textbooks was sometimes too high and some students didn't notice the 17.5% commission that covers our expenses; We accepted all textbooks but some were not sold because they were not required for courses in this semester; The students who lent us their textbooks at the end of the collecting period (which was on Friday January 18th) of course had less chance of selling them as most students had already bought their textbooks by this date.

We also encourage students to ask their teacher about old editions. There usually isn't a lot of difference between following editions but there can be a big one in price.

The Concordia Community Solidarity Coop Bookstore provisional committee will continue the groundwork to see the Coop fully realized and continue to provide the Concordia community with cheap prices through a non-profit bookstore based in a democratic workplace. In September everyone will be invited to become a member.

Info on the Concordia Community Solidarity Coop Bookstore: 848-7445



ARRIBA LA PANocha! A Festival of Wimmin's Art, Health, and Politics

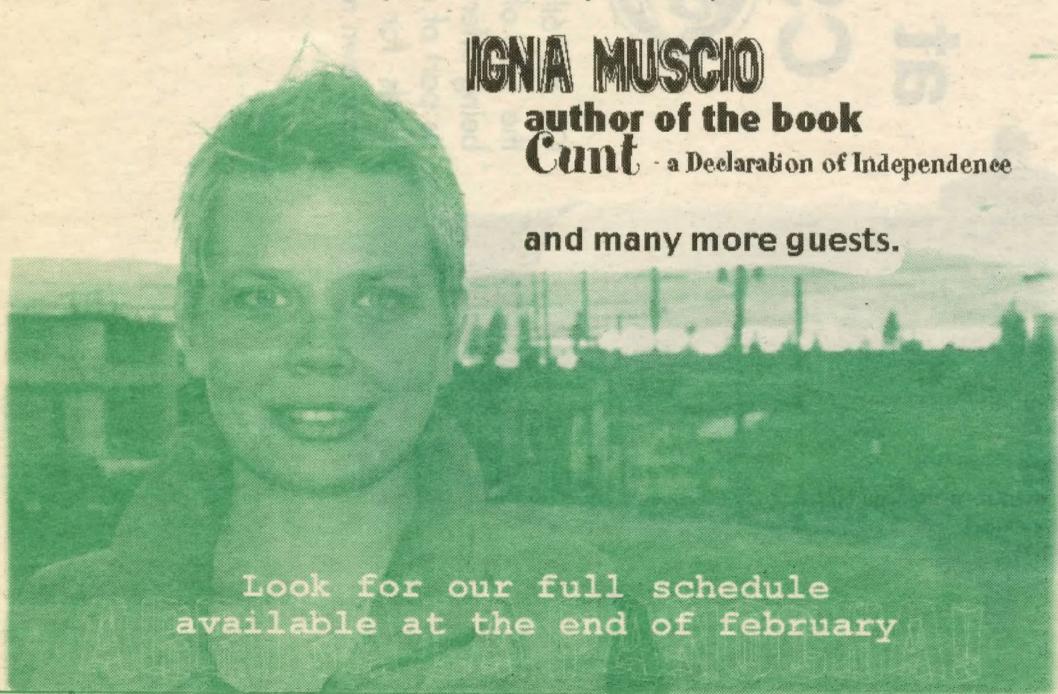
A series of events in the month of March 2002
that aim to educate, raise awareness and celebrate
the struggle of wimmin all over America.

Workshops, speakers, and celebrations

Local wimmin and special guests
including the Wymoons army of NYC,

IGNIA MUSCIO
author of the book
Cunt - a Declaration of Independence

and many more guests.



Look for our full schedule
available at the end of february

PUBLIC MEETING:

A leftist analysis and critique of the CSU and student activism at Concordia University.

BE PART OF A WIDE RANGING DISCUSSION,
PRESENTED BY A PANEL
OF CONCORDIA ACTIVISTS

When: Thursday Feb 14th, at 4pm.
Where: Erskine and American Church,
corner of Sherbrooke and Crescent Street, (5
minutes from the Hall building)

This meeting is organized by Facing Reality: a CSU club.
For more information about the meeting, page Tom at
854-2073 or email facing_reality01@yahoo.com.

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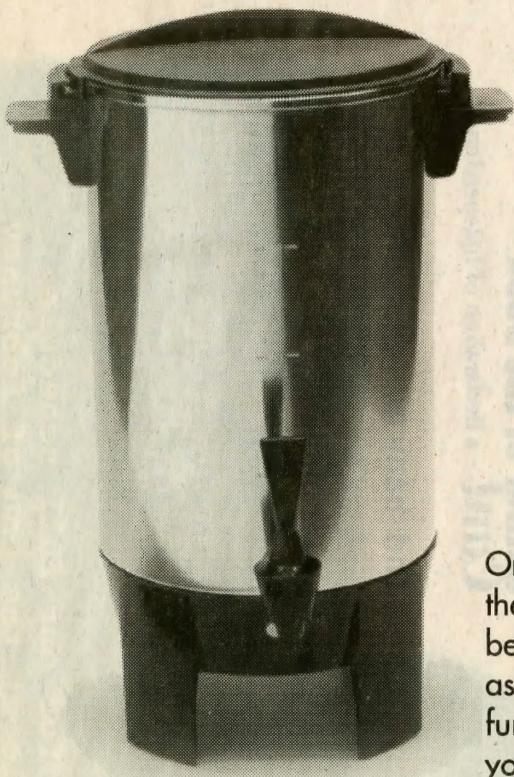
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Free Coffee



at the
CSU



On the 6th floor, outside
the CSU offices, coffee is
being offered by donation
as part of a drive to raise
funds for charity. Bring
your own mug if you can.